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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/385,671 | 08/27/1999 | CHARLES ERIC HUNTER | WT-1 | 9516 |

7590 10/04/2002

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner,
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EXAMINER

DINH, DUNG C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2153

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/385,671

Applicant(s)

HUNTER, CHARLES ERIC

Examiner

Dung Dinh

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5, 11.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Russo US patent 5,619,247 and further in view of Schulhof et al. US patent 5,557,541.

As per claim 1, Russo teaches a method of distributing movies comprising:

transmitting plural movies to plural customer home [inherent in the cable system];

permitting the customer to record and playback transmitted movies [col.4 to col.5];

communicating playback information to a central controller system and using the information to bill the customer for only the movies that are played back for viewing [col.5 lines 1-5, col.6 lines 25-32].

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Russo does not teaches a system where the movies are transmitted faster than real time to the customer. In similar field, Schulhof teaches a method for customer to record programming by transmitting the program faster than real time to enable the customer to quickly record the program [col. 5 lines 60-68]. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Schulhof with Russo because it would have enable the customer to quickly record desired program on demand.

As per claim 2-4, it is inherent that Russo has schedule for the customer to know which movies are available for recording. The feature would been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to enable the user to select desired programming.

As per claims 5-9, Russo does not specifically disclose the recited encoding method. The encoding method would clearly have been a matter of design choice because the recording system would work essentially the same with other encoding schemes. Russo teaches using phone and modem communication [col.6 line 30-32].

As per claim 10, Russo teaches crediting the user account [col.6 lines 10-32].

As per claims 11-23, the transmission of video using tiers, via satellite, cable, optic and providing GUI interface are well

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known in the art. These function are apparent or would clearly obvious variations in view of the teaching of Russo.

As per claim 24, it is rejected under similar rationale as for claim 1 above. Russo does not disclose using DVD RAM. It would have been obvious to use DVD RAM because it provides large recording capacity.

As per claims 25-28, they are rejected under similar rationale as for claim 1 above.

Claims 29-47, 48-63, 64, 65-66, and 67 are similarly rejected.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung Dinh whose telephone number is (703) 305-9655. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached at (703) 305-4792.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group 2100 Customer Service whose telephone number is (703) 306-5631.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

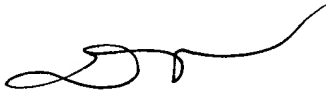
(703) 746-7239, (for formal communications intended for entry)
(703) 746-7240 (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II,
2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington. VA, Fourth Floor (Receptionist).



Dung Dinh
Primary Examiner
September 30, 2002